THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 25th November 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Recommendations of the Indian Medical Conference.

* 34 *Q.* (Short Notice Question).—DR. P. VARADARAJULU NAIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Government representative was sent to the Indian Medical Conference held in Delhi to consider the educational qualification to be prescribed for admission to Medical Colleges and the method of selection to be adopted in future; and

(*b*) what are the recommendations made by the Conference?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (*a*) This Government are not aware of the subjects discussed at the Conference. The following officers of this Government who were invited by the Government of India, were permitted to attend the Conference :—

(1) The Director of Medical Services, Madras.

(2) Dr. C. K. Prasada Rao, Dean, Madras Medical College, Madras.

(3) Dr. K. N. Pisharoty, Dean, Stanley Medical College, Madras.

(4) Dr. A. Ananthanarayana Iyer, Director, Upgraded Anatomy Department, Stanley Medical College, Madras.

(5) Dr. M. D. Anantachari, Principal, Madurai Medical College, Madurai.

(6) Dr. C. Raghavachari, Professor of Surgery, Stanley Medical College, Madras.

(7) Dr. S. T. Achar, Professor of Pediatrics, Madras Medical College, Madras.

(8) Dr. D. V. Subba Reddi, Professor of Physiology, Madras Medical College, Madras.

(*b*) The recommendations of the Conference have not so far been communicated to the Government. It is understood that the Conference has recommended that for the next few years, each College should continue its own method of selection taking into account the desirability of including in the criteria for selection—

(1) The academic record of the student,

(2) his extra-curricular activities, and

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(3) the result of personality and aptitude tests and of any other special tests that may be employed.

As regards entrance requirements, the Conference has expressed the view that pending the introduction of the changes recommended by the Secondary Education Commission, the passing of the Intermediate examination with science subjects should continue to be the minimum qualification required for admission to a medical college.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, the Hon. Minister was saying that the Government were unaware of the Conference and that they have not been communicated the proceedings, but gave answers just to the contrary. Are we to understand that the officers of this Government attend Conferences and express opinions without the knowledge of this Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Sir, this was a Conference convened by the Central Ministry of Health. They wanted particular officers to be sent there and those officers were permitted to go. No papers regarding the subjects to be discussed at this Conference were sent to this Government nor were the views of this Government obtained on these subjects.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : Sir, will the recommendations if any made by the Council there have a binding effect upon this Government? Supposing B.Sc. is the minimum qualification that is fixed for admission to the Medical Colleges, will it be binding on this Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The Conference has only made certain recommendations. They are not binding on this Government. There was a proposal to make B.Sc. the minimum qualification for entry into the Medical Colleges, but it was not agreed to at the Conference. The present arrangements will therefore continue.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : The Hon. Minister said that the recommendations of the Conference have not been communicated to this Government. May I know then what is the source of information now given by the Hon. Minister? Is it based on any paper reports?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Sir, I have seen a copy of the resolutions passed at the Conference and I got the copy from the Dean of the Madras Medical College who returned from Delhi day before yesterday.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the ruse played by this Conference? If B.Sc. is the lowest minimum standard prescribed for admission to the Madras Medical College or for that matter any other college, it is only an indirect method of trying to put a stop to the educationally backward people from getting admission to the professional colleges.

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The hon. Member has not evidently heard what I have said. There was a proposal to make B.Sc. the qualification for entry to the Medical Colleges, but that has not been agreed to. The present Intermediate standard will be the qualification for admission to Medical Colleges.

Selection for the S.S.L.C. Examination.

* 2838 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri N. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the candidates who appeared and failed in the previous S.S.L.C. Public Examination and continue their studies in the high schools in the next year, are not all selected to sit for the next year S.S.L.C. Public Examination;

(*b*) if so, the number of such candidates, in this State, not selected to sit for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination to be held in March 1955; and

(*c*) whether they are allowed to appear privately to complete the subjects in which they have failed in the previous examination?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) 24.

(*c*) Yes, Sir. The number of times a candidate can appear for S.S.L.C. examination is limited to four times in the case of Non-scheduled castes candidates and five times in the case of Scheduled Caste candidates.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, is it not a fact that a student who fails for the first time in the S.S.L.C. examination could not be prevented even by the school authorities in which he undergoes his studies for the second time from appearing for the S.S.L.C. examination for the second time?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have stated that a student is entitled to sit four times in the case of non-scheduled castes and five times in the case of Scheduled Caste candidates.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, by appearing four times, the student would have gained sufficient experience so that will the Government make it a rule that if he appears for four times, then he must be considered as automatically eligible for the higher class. (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I think that if that principle is accepted, then even a person who stands for the election four times and gets defeated should be declared elected because he has got experience of elections. I do not think it is desirable to adopt that principle. (Continued laughter.)